



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2005

**NORRISTOWN OFFICIALS AND CONTRACTORS INDICTED ON
CORRUPTION CHARGES**

**Norristown Mayor, Former Borough Administrator, And Three Contractors
Face Conspiracy, Fraud, Bribery, And Tax Charges**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan, F.B.I. Special Agent-in-Charge Jack Eckenrode, Acting I.R.S. Special Agent-in-Charge Dave Gannaway, and Major Frank E. Pawlowski, Pennsylvania State Police Director of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, today announced the filing of two indictments¹ charging Norristown Mayor Theodore H. LeBlanc, former Borough Administrator Anthony A. Biondi and three former Borough contractors with scheming to corrupt the Borough's government.

Specifically, LeBlanc is charged with taking a \$10,000 cash bribe from co-defendant Herbert H. Bagley in February 2003 in exchange for LeBlanc insuring that Bagley (who is charged with paying a bribe to LeBlanc) continued to be appointed the Borough's insurance broker. Bagley was in danger of losing his contract because his business partner had been charged in state court with stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars of Borough insurance payments in late 2002. During 2003 and 2004, Bagley received more than \$400,000 in fees and commissions from the Borough.

Also, the indictment alleges that, after being retained as the insurance broker, Bagley engaged in a scheme to steal more than \$50,000 from the Borough using false invoices.

"This was corruption in its most basic form," said Meehan. "You had the mayor taking a \$10,000 payoff and the borough administrator accepting hidden payments in exchange for awarding contracts. The victims in this case are the people of Norristown, who deserve much better from the people elected to serve them. Taxpayers have the right to expect honesty from public officials and, as this indictment shows, they didn't get it."

The indictment also charges LeBlanc with bank fraud. In 2003, LeBlanc sold the real estate housing his bar, Walter's Tavern at 419 W. Marshall Street in Norristown. At the time, Commerce Bank had a lien on this real estate and demanded that it receive the proceeds of this

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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sale. LeBlanc failed to inform Commerce that as part of the transaction, he had a \$50,000 personal debt assumed and he received \$10,000 cash in a brown paper bag as a deposit on the property prior to the closing.

Former Borough Administrator Biondi is charged with awarding paving and snow plowing contracts to defendants Mazzerle and Carbo's companies at the same time Mazzerle and Carbo were making hidden cash payments to Biondi. At the time of these hidden cash payments, Mazzerle and Carbo contracted with the Borough to do virtually all of its paving and hauling work. Biondi secretly owned two tri-axle dump trucks titled in Mazzerle's company's name. When Mazzerle or Carbo used Biondi's trucks for paving and hauling jobs, they paid him thousands of dollars in cash. In return, Biondi awarded tens of thousands of dollars in paving and snow plowing work to Carbo and Mazzerle. Biondi hid his relationship with Mazzerle and Carbo by falsely reporting that he had no business interests outside of his job as Borough administrator and falsely stating that he had no outside source of income.

LeBlanc, Biondi, Bagley, and Mazzerle are also charged with filing false income tax returns for their failing to report income.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Theodore H. LeBlanc	Sandy Street, Norristown, PA 19401.	1/28/38
Anthony Biondi	Cooke Lane, Norristown, PA 19401	4/10/62
Herbert H. Bagley	Canterbury Court, Blue Bell, PA 19422	5/12/43
Lawrence C. Mazzerle	Ross Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406	8/8/47
Thomas D. Carbo	E. Conestoga Rd., Devon PA 19333	5/5/67

If convicted LeBlanc faces a maximum sentence of up to 171 years imprisonment, a \$2.75 million fine, and five years supervised release. Biondi faces up to 154 years imprisonment, three years supervised release, and a \$3.5 million fine. Bagley faces up to 201 years imprisonment, a \$3.25 million fine, and five years supervised release. Mazzerle faces up to 151 years imprisonment, a \$3.25 million fine, and three years supervised release, and Carbo faces up to 45 years imprisonment, a \$750,000 fine, and three years supervised release.

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The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, the Pennsylvania State Police and has been assigned for prosecution to Assistant United States Attorneys Paul L. Gray, Lesley B. Fitzgerald, and Richard J. Zack.

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